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FREE TEXT BOOKS.

A Plea for the System by Hon. H. S. Hadsall.

I address this communication to those interested in the matter which shall follow. In doing so I do not wish to be considered as posing as a reformer or agitator, but simply as one equally interested with others in all matters for the public good.

For some time I have considered what to me seems a great fault in the educational system in our city. We are proud, as a people, of our school buildings, efficient teachers and educational advantages, and our growing demand for more rooms to adequately accommodate the pupils, but to me the beauty of the picture is marred from the fact that the text books used in connection therewith must be procured in such a way that it becomes a hardship on the patrons of the schools. I am aware of the fact that no pupil need go without school books if the parents are unable to buy them, but in that regard many who are really unable to afford the luxury of \$5.00 per year per pupil for new books, will by rigid self-denial procure the needed books rather than be considered on the pauper list. Property is assessed for funds to build the buildings, furnish apparatus, employ instructors, everything up to the point where the pupil begins school, then stops, and really the largest expense—that of procuring school books—is unprovided for.

During the last session of the legislature a hard battle was fought between the people and the school book publisher's combination, and the people but partly succeeded in the matter of the uniformity of text books. It was a step in the right direction but did not go far enough. It should have compelled all school districts to furnish text books free, or rather the free use of them. Many cities of this state have the free text book system, and as far as I am able to ascertain it is entirely satisfactory. I have taken some time to investigate the matters and have received many letters from secretaries of school boards where the system is in use, and in every instance it gives universal satisfaction. For instance, in the cities of Saginaw and Bay City, the secretary of the Saginaw school board writes me in answer to my question, "What is the average cost per year per pupil to furnish the books?" "After once supplied, average cost is about 33 1/3 cents." In that city they have operated under the system for seven years. Bay City has the system only up to and including the 8th grade, at an average cost per pupil of from 60 cents to 70 cents per year. The first three years the system was in use, owing to the fact that the pupils, many of them owned their own books, the net cost per capita was only 53 cents per annum. The superintendent of schools in his annual report says: "It cannot be denied that from an economical standpoint the balance is greatly in favor of the board purchasing the text books. However, even if the question of cost were to be entirely eliminated, there are to my mind several reasons why this plan should be pursued." Then follows in the report many reasons, one of which is, "The confusion arising from a lack of books, or from the child's possessing mutilated books, is obviated."

Under a carefully managed system there are always enough whole books on hand to supply the school, for when any book becomes unfit for use it is condemned, and, if beyond profitable repair, it is destroyed. Thus the child, always in possession of a book in useable condition, has not this excuse for being unprepared with his lessons, and many vexatious delays and interruptions are avoided. After a trial of three years, it seems to me that the free text book system may be pronounced a success. Undoubtedly the machinery connected with its proper manipulation requires extra attention on the part of the employees of the board, especially the principals, but this is to be expected, and with scarcely an exception, so far as I am aware, this service has been cheerfully rendered. It may be mentioned as a somewhat significant fact of popular approval that the city of Detroit has lately been added to the list of cities in our state which have adopted the free text book system.

The assessed valuation of Owosso is about \$1,650,000. The school district, embracing as it does some land outside the city on the south side, the assessed valuation of the district would be greater; but for the purpose of making the estimate the \$1,650,000 is sufficient and perfectly fair as the larger valuation the smaller cost per capita. Using the experience of Bay City on the introduction of the system as a basis for the estimate, the net amount expended for text

books for the first three years was \$4531.98. The total attendance for those years 8515, an average yearly attendance of 2838 1/2. I am advised that there are enrolled in our city schools about 1800 pupils which would make a total attendance for three years 5400; using the above prices for comparison it would cost this school district to introduce the system over the first three years period the sum of \$2862.00 or about 17 cents on \$100, of the assessed valuation. For example, each taxpayer paying taxes on \$1000 valuation, would contribute over a period of three years \$1.70 or less than 60 cents per year towards furnishing free text books in our schools. This amount would be reduced somewhat, as there would be a certain percentage of the pupils who would prefer to own their own books, those could be procured of the board at the actual cost price. We can have just as good quality and just as desirable books and the school board can buy them in quantities in a competitive market without the large profits which are now taken from the masses of the people.

In many instances at the beginning of this school year it has cost fathers who are earning but small wages, and with but scanty provisions, if any, made for the coming winter, from \$4.00 to \$6.00 for school books before their children could begin school. The expense of this system, as in every other matter in connection with sustaining our school, would fall greatest on those who are best able to pay. I do not expect to hear one word of criticism from that class of our people, for we are known to be liberal and public spirited; they cheerfully pay large taxes to advance the welfare of our city, and I feel sure no one would object to the small additional expense if it is best for all concerned. I solicit honest criticism of this article that may help to discuss the question. It is a matter in which we are deeply interested and should be fairly considered. I have many facts at my command as to the experiences of other cities along this line, but will reserve them for another communication.

Respectfully,
HENRY S. HADSALL.

Physical strength and energy contribute to strength of character, and both may be had by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Left Him In Doubt.

He was in doubt. He didn't know whether he should be angry or pleased, and a great deal depended upon it. They were sitting on the sofa together, and once, when the conversation seemed to drag a little, he had suggested: "Don't you think it is rather close tonight?"

"It might be closer," she replied. It was a terrible predicament in which to place a man who was anxious to make the best of his opportunities. Should he take advantage of what seemed an invitation to get a little nearer to her, or should he be angry at being termed an "it?"—Chicago Record.

She Was Safe.



"Take care you don't fall, dearie."
"It's all right, maver. I've holdin on by the wings."—Punch.

Electric Railways In Japan.

According to the latest information received from Japan by The Electrical Review, there are at the present time three electric railways in that empire. Work on four other roads will begin soon. Nearly all the apparatus for these four new roads has been purchased within the past few months in the United States.

Easy to Take Easy to Operate

Are features peculiar to Hood's Pills. Small in size, tasteless, efficient, thorough. As one man

Hood's Pills
said: "You never know you have taken a pill till it is all over."—See C. I. Hood & Co., Proprietors, Lowell, Mass. The only pills to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Fast Flying.
Five hundred homing pigeons were liberated in Baltimore on a recent morning at 6 o'clock for a flight to New York city. The birds belong to lofts in New York and Brooklyn owned by members of the Manhattan Homing club and were shipped to Baltimore to be released. The first of the birds arrived in New York at 11:40, having made the trip in less than six hours.

Beware of Ointments for Catarrh that contain Mercury.

as mercury will surely destroy the sense of smell and completely derange the whole system when entering it through the mucous surfaces. Such articles should never be used except on prescriptions from reputable physicians, as the damage they will do is ten fold to the good you can possibly derive from them. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., contains no mercury, and is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. In buying Hall's Catarrh Cure be sure you get the genuine. It is taken internally, and made in Toledo, Ohio, by F. J. Cheney & Co. Testimonials free.

Sold by druggists, price 75c. per bottle.

The American Agriculturist says: "The western farmer's financial condition is wonderfully improved. During the past three years he practiced such economy that with a slight improvement of wheat prices last fall and fair values of cattle, sheep, and hogs, the thrifty farmer gradually reduced his debts. With good prices this fall, he is indeed paying off the mortgage. The fall in the interest rate is as remarkable as the other features of the rising tide."

Consumption is the natural result of a neglected cold. Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup cures coughs, bronchitis, asthma, and all lung troubles down to the very borderland of consumption.

The American Monthly Review of Reviews for October has several articles of unusual interest to women readers. Miss Frances Willard tells the story of the World's W. C. T. U. movement; Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, outlines the benefits of those organizations; Mrs. Sheldon Amos, of England, writes of a London Women's Club, and Miss Mary Taylor Blauvelt contributes an enlightening article on the opportunities for women at the English universities.

Try Grain-O! Try Grain-O!

Ask your grocer to show you a package of GRAIN-O, the new food drink that takes the place of coffee. The children may drink it without injury as well as the adult. All who try it, like it. GRAIN-O has that rich seal brown of Mocha or Java, but it is made from pure grains, and the most delicate stomach receives it without distress. 1/4 the price of coffee. 15c and 25c per package. Sold by all grocers.

Cheap Rates to the West and Northwest.

On August 17, September 7, 21, October 5 and 19, the North-Western line (Chicago and North-Western Ry.) will sell Home Seekers' excursion tickets at exceptionally low rates to a large number of points in northern Wisconsin, Michigan, northwestern Iowa, western Minnesota; Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota, including the famous Black Hills district. Better own a farm! Start now! Send for free copy of The North-Western Home-Seeker to W. H. Guerin, 67 Woodward avenue, Detroit, Mich., or W. B. Kniskern, 23 Fifth avenue, Chicago, Ill.

DR. F. B. MONROE

WILL BE AT THE
WILDERMUTH HOUSE,
Wednesday, Oct. 27th, 1897.



By reason of repeated requests I have decided to visit Owosso once in five weeks, and will be at the private parlor of the Wildermuth House, where I can be consulted in all cases. Everything confidential. All are requested to bring two ounces of urine. Charges moderate, and no incurable cases taken. I always make diseases of women and children a specialty; also chronic diseases. I have diagnosed of my local business in order to take the road, especially for the benefit of chronic sufferers. Come and see me; it costs you nothing. All medicines furnished you are purely vegetable—roots, herbs and honey. Correspondence solicited before my visit if possible. Address me at 444 Que St., Toledo, Ohio.

CASES I CURE.

Dyspepsia, Rheumatism, Indigestion, Piles, Neuritis, All Nervous Diseases, Constipation, Fever and Results, Blood Diseases, And all Chronic Diseases.

By my new process through the blood I examine all diseases through the blood, treat all through the blood, and cure all that I pronounce curable through the blood direct.

Catarrh, Salt Rheum, Female Weakness, Paralysis, Scrofula, Seminal weakness, Eruptions, Tumors, Tape Worms, Canker, Effects of Malaria, All Skin and Blood Diseases and ill effects of Gripe.

DR. F. B. MONROE.

HORSE TALK.

George Saunders declares he will hereafter eschew the driving of hopped pascors.

This is Emily's (2:18 3/4) first season on the turf, but she produced a foal several years ago.

Allen Lowe thinks Star Pointer can pull a high wheel sulky in 2:02 or 2:03 and a wagon in 2:05.

At the recent meeting at Erie, Pa., Susie Hill, by Edgell, won in the 2:24 class, trotting to a record of 2:21 3/4.

In the 2:28 trot at Grand Rapids, Ia., Ethelyn Fairlawn won the last three of seven heats in 2:22 3/4, 2:20 3/4 and 2:22 3/4.

It was Boston, 2:21 3/4, that Doc Yale and Dr. Dallen had on a ringing tour in New Hampshire under the name of Billy T.

Grace Hastings, 2:08, and Pearl Onward, 2:06 3/4, are both winning good races right along for the Hubinger brothers.

Now that Searchlight (8), 2:09 3/4, has returned to California, a meeting should be arranged between him and Hijo el Diablo, 2:11 3/4.

It is said that Commodore Belmont was the handsomest horse taken to Montana and that C. K. Larnie gave \$10,000 for him.

Dandy Jim has reduced the Lafayette (Ind.) track record, trotting to 2:12 3/4 in the second heat of the free for all for a \$300 purse.

A. H. Moore's Nancy Lee, the dam of Nancy Hanks, 2:04, has a fine filly sired by Director, 2:17, at the Clover-dell stock farm, Colmar.

Probate Notice for Hearing Claims Before Court.

State of Michigan, county of Shiawassee, ss. Notice is hereby given, that by an order of the Probate Court for the county of Shiawassee, made on the 24 day of August, A. D. 1897, six months from that date were allowed for creditors to present their claims against the estate of Clarence P. Hulbert, late of said county, deceased, and that all creditors of said deceased are required to present their claims to said Probate Court at the Probate office, in the city of Corunna, for examination and allowance, on or before the 24 day of February next, and that such claims will be heard before said court on Monday, the 1st day of November, and on Wednesday, the 3d day of February next, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of those days. Dated September 28th, A. D. 1897. MATTHEW BUSH, Judge of Probate.

Mortgage Sale.

Default having been made in the conditions of a certain mortgage bearing date the tenth day of April in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-two, made, executed, and delivered by Charles Briggerman, of the township of Owosso, in the county of Shiawassee and State of Michigan, to Frederick Briggerman, of the same place, which said mortgage was recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for the county of Shiawassee, and State of Michigan, in Liber 26 of mortgages, on page 111, on the 10th day of April, 1882, by which default the power of sale in said mortgage contained has become operative, and no proceedings at law or in equity having been instituted to recover the debt secured by said mortgage, or any part thereof, on which mortgage the title is claimed to be, the power of sale in said mortgage contained and in pursuance to the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that, on Monday, the 27th day of December, 1897, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of that day, at the front door of the Court House in the city of Corunna, and state aforesaid, that being the place where the circuit court for the county of Shiawassee of Michigan, shall sit at public auction or vendue to the highest bidder, the lands and premises described in said mortgage, or so much amount due, together with interest, costs of sale and an attorney fee of thirty-five dollars, as provided by statute, the lands and premises being in the township of Owosso, county of Shiawassee and State of Michigan, and described in said mortgage as follows, to-wit: The west half of the northeast quarter (1/4) of section four (4) in town seven (7) north range two (2) east, containing eighty acres of land more or less. Dated this 5th day of September, 1897. FREDERICK BRIGGERMAN, Mortgagee. Kilpatrick & Pierpont, Attys. for Mortgagee.

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The Chicago Times-Herald says: "Webster's International Dictionary in its present form is the authority on everything relating to our language in the way of orthography, etymology, and definition. It is a perfect human effort and scholarly work."

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Remaining ONE WEEK, including Sunday, October 10th.

Office Hours, 10 A. M. to 8 P. M. Sunday, 10 to 4.

All who visit these physicians during the above dates will receive consultation, examination and advice absolutely free until cured.

The doctors wish it thoroughly understood that this is not a "charity offer," but purely a business proposition made for the purpose of proving to the good people of Owosso their wonderful knowledge of and skill in curing disease.

These Doctors cure Catarrh, Bronchitis, Asthma, Epilepsy, Nervous Exhaustion, Rheumatism, Dyspepsia, Constipation, and absolutely guarantee every case of Consumption they agree to treat.

No Person Should Doctor any Further or Take Any More Medicine Before Consulting Them.

Not only will callers be surprised at their wonderful knowledge of disease, their plain, concise explanation of every case and effect, but at the marvelous rapidity with which their new, common sense rational treatment goes to the very seat of the trouble, giving almost instant relief, and in all cases that have not progressed too far.

A Perfect, Absolute and Permanent Cure.

These Doctors wish it distinctly understood that they do not take incurable cases—reserving the right to reject any case that in their judgment has passed into the incurable stage. Last year 700 were so rejected. At some prior stage these cases were probably all curable. See to it that you do not delay too long.

Free For This Visit Only.

Remember this is the last offer of free treatment. On future visits new patients will be charged the usual fees, and the above offer will not be made again.

MANHOOD RESTORED.

It is not necessary to enter into any lengthy discussion of the evils or consequences of sexual excess or self abuse. Every one knows the fatal results of these violations of nature's laws. The latter vice, especially, never fails to stamp its mark on its victims. The glassy eye, the pimpled skin, the irritable or morose disposition; the nervous, shame-faced manner attended by distressing bashfulness and timidity; the weak, shrunken organs and the falling mind, tell the tale of secret vice to every watchful eye. Dr. J. C. Clarendon, chief medical director of the Doctors of Rational Medicine, takes patients in this class under his own personal care. He has probably had a larger experience in diseases of the sexual and nervous system than any living physician. He is a kindly gentleman whom no one need fear to consult on disease of a private nature. His business is to cure and he welcomes all patients with a hearty sincerity that banishes all restraint.

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